

The Colored American

Published by THE COLORED AMERICAN Publishing Company.

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Published every Saturday at 459 C St. N. W. Washington, D. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year	-	-	\$2.00
Six months	-	-	1.10
Three months	-	-	.60

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Subscriptions may be sent by postoffice money order, express or by registered letter. All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

For Sale by all News Dealers.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts. Entered at the Post-office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN,
EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

459 C Street Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1900.

OUR WEEKLY TEXT.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.—St. Luke vi: 38.

THE COLORED AMERICAN'S VALUED ALLY.

It is always a genuine pleasure to be in accord with the Washington Post on questions of vital importance. We have frequently taken occasion to dissent from its position at times when we deemed it our duty to do so; when, according to our way of thinking, justice and right required it. We have never, however, failed to recognize in the Post an organ of public opinion that takes rank among the best products of American journalism. And it is a matter of pleasant surprise to us to know that the Post entertains sentiments about a matter of grave public concern that so nearly coincide with our own. In an editorial on New Year's Day, that eminent organ of public opinion, taking as its text a paragraph which recently appeared in The Colored American, sets forth with force and precision its views on "Negro and Other Race Journals." From this editorial we learn that the Post "reads its colored exchanges regularly and has been doing so for a very long time." After admitting that "there are a great many very entertaining and respectable newspapers published by colored men," the article proceeds to express its disapproval of the "attempt to organize coteries of race, religion, color and condition." Here we find ourselves in substantial agreement with our esteemed contemporary. It is our purpose at all times to contribute our best efforts to promote the unity, patriotism and best interests of our country. Anything other than this is hateful to us. We believe with the Post that "This great republic was founded by men who had fled from the tyranny and the oppression of class prejudice." We further believe that we best honor the memory

of the men who founded this republic, when we protest against race hate and proscription. We believe that we are promoting the strength and perpetuity of the nation when we insist upon equal treatment, impartial justice, fair opportunity and just recognition for every man. If the dominant race of this country really believed "in the opportunity of the individual" regardless of race, religion, color or condition," there would be no friction, no accusation, no jealousy, no clash of classes or races.

The Colored American exists because the dominant race denies to the race which it represents, an equal chance in the race of life. It is not now necessary to give a list of the unequal conditions against which the colored man exists, and occasionally utters a protest. They are known to every intelligent citizen of the republic. It is notorious that character and fitnesses, when possessed to colored men, count for less than their face value. The mission of The Colored American is to reason and argue against such limitations and restriction. We draw no lines of race, religion or condition against any living soul; but we do insist that it is wrong and iniquitous to draw such lines against us.

We thank the Post for the opinion that "The Colored American is one of the best and most respectable of its class." It has always been our ambition, and is now, to run a live, progressive, and thoroughly American newspaper. We are glad to have it from so reliable an authority as our esteemed morning contemporary, that we are in a measure realizing that ambition. We shall continue to strive to be of service to our people, our country and its institutions. We enter upon the new year with assurance of success over race prejudice, caste and proscription, because the Washington Post stands with us on this issue.

Lynching is a crime against the national government, and the law should so declare it.

NEGRO EXHIBIT AT PARIS.

We do not agree with our esteemed contemporary. The Afro-American Presbyterian that the plan for a distinctively Negro exhibit at Paris is unwise. It is the height of wisdom, under the circumstances existing in the United States. Disguise the matter as we may, the colored man is on trial before the civilized world. American newspapers, filled with ill-reports and prejudiced utterances relative to our people, reach the leading centers of thought among the people of Europe, and it is a question in their minds as to whether we are guilty or not as charged in the indictment. They are watching for evidences of our progress. They want to see something we have done, upon which to base a verdict. If the exhibits are merged, there will be nothing to serve as testimony for the defense. The white people would monopolize the credit for everything accomplished. Since the separation is not designed as a mark of contemptuous discrimination, we should approve of the plan for a race exhibit, and do all we can to make it thoroughly representative. Special agent Calloway is the right man at the head of this work and his efforts should be sustained.

Prof. R. L. Smith, of Oakland, Texas, is stirring up a praiseworthy agitation against the credit system among the colored farmers of his state. The movement against the iniquitous habit of bargaining away a crop before it is made, and of buying on credit at

enormous interest rates should spread throughout the entire South. Progress is impossible until some plan is devised whereby the farmer can pay as he goes, or borrow and buy on liberal terms. Prof. Smith is on the right track. The Afro-American Council is to lay the matter before the Industrial Commission at an early date.

DEMOCRATS DO NOT GRASP OPPORTUNITIES.

The greatest handicap to the democratic party is and has been its inability to grasp an opportunity when opportunity knocks at its door. When the times are ripe for a division of the Negro vote, and thousands of our people are "almost persuaded," the nocompoops in power in that organization lack the breadth of judgment, and even the instinct of the clever politician, to swing wide the door, and say "Come in, and take a seat among us." Instead, they indulge in a lot of wild talk about the Negro vote being a menace to civilization, and burn midnight oil preparing bills to rob him of his rightful suffrage. There are localities, of course, in which there is a very comfortable condition of affairs, but they are so few that they stand out as such glittering exceptions that they emphasize the folly and shortsightedness of the democratic party as a whole. It will require a great many Richard Crokers, Tom Taggarts, Grover Clevelands, Josiah Quincys, William Whitneys, Carter Harrisons and John R. McLeans to offset the backward tendencies of Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky and other states, where there have been golden opportunities for the democrats to make heavy inroads upon the Negro vote.

A man of means who will subscribe for a paper and refuse to pay for the same, after receiving it for a year, will steal, if he gets half a chance.

The Negro should determine to be more than a cipher in the business world. We must conduct business enterprises, accumulate money in banks, own real estate, invest in street and steam railway stocks, corporation bonds and take shares in the great newspapers of the land. Independence will be a myth and clamor for recognition will avail us little until we can command respect by reason of a demonstrated ability to get something material, and to keep it. Money, education, character and co-operation are the ingredients that will solve the race problem.

If one Negro hasn't money enough to start a business, one hundred mites put together can do it. Have we sufficient confidence in one another to co-operate and open a shoe store, coal yard, grocery or dry goods house? Have we?

WE ARE OUR OWN "CENSOR."

It is unfortunate for the race that there are still a few quill drivers who rattle around in editorial chairs, and whose excuse for brains is so dense that they cannot understand that the really first class journal of today must be fair in its treatment of all issues, no matter how widely their nature may differ. It is possible to condemn one thing a man may do and praise him for another, and yet may be neither his enemy, nor subsidized friend. Wipe the dust off your "specs," Omaha Progress, and keep your vision clear. The Colored American has never been antagonistic to the administration of McKinley; but, at the same time, we have

not failed to point out the room for improvement when the occasion demanded correction or reform. We are our own editorial "censor," thank you.

There are men in Congress who have no business there. The fraud and bloodshed necessary to supply them with a certificate of election are just as offensive to thoughtful people as polygamy. There are worse men in Congress than Roberts—yet the nation sits by apparently unmoved.

A CANCER IN THE NEGRO'S BREAST.

We want to set our foot down good and hard on an absurd ebullition of race prejudice that is cropping out to an alarming extent among those of us who make our living by cooking, laundering, sewing and like occupations. Complaint is made by numbers of first class colored families that it is next to impossible to get satisfactory service at the hands of colored house girls and cooks, there being a peculiar disinclination to be a "servant" in the home of one of their own race. They resent the class line, and become highly indignant if they are not received as full fledged members of the family circle. It is alleged that some colored dress-makers can scarcely be prevailed upon to make a garment for a colored lady, and when she does so condescend, the work is so often inferior to the kind furnished to a white person. The same criticism is made to the quality of laundry service accorded to ladies of color, and several have testified that they had been compelled, at times, to do their own work from inability to get a woman who would return the clothing in presentable condition. It is remarked that some of those engaged in these callings, will not wait on a colored person as long as they have a white customer to serve.

Now, this is all wrong, and we cannot move forward as a people as long as we harbor such mean notions concerning the disposition of our labor. One person's money is as good as another's, and the quality of service should be regulated by the price, not by any such absurd standard as color. There must, of necessity, be classes in all races, owing to differences in opportunities and varieties of ability, and we should all strive to do our duty, along the line of our calling, never slighting a detail because the employer is a brother or sister more fortunate than ourselves. Rather strive earnestly to reach the goal attained by them, and seek to be worthy of the chance they offer for the accumulation of the money the acknowledged passport to the favor that they themselves enjoy. Jealousy gains us nothing, and such petty prejudice is positively criminal. This tendency to look with disdain upon the patronage of a member of our race, and to sneer at the employment he offers, will eventually prove to be a cancer in the Negro breast, destroying slowly but surely, the vitals of race pride and internal race progress.

"The Negro in Politics."

This was the title of perhaps the most interesting and timely symposium presented this season by Bethel Literary and Historical Association. A large and representative audience gathered at Metropolitan A. M. E. church Tuesday evening to hear Former Governor P. B. S. Pinchback thrillingly recount the glories of the Negro's past in the political field; to find pleasure in Congressman George H. White's powerful argument on the present and to take hope from Prof. R. H. Terrell's bright prophecy for the future.